

south. In the list there are included descriptions of 76 new species and varieties.—J. M. C.

Flora of Shikotan.—TAKEDA⁴⁸ has studied somewhat intensively the flora of Shikotan, which is a small island situated near enough to the Kurile Islands to be regarded as one of them, at least in climatic conditions. The great interest of the islands in general is that the vegetation is quite primeval, nothing having been disturbed by the hand of man; in fact, Shikotan seems not to have been touched by human hands at all. An analysis of the floristic features is presented, and the enumeration includes 234 species, the largest assemblage being dicotyledons (219). The four largest families appear in the following order of abundance: Compositae, Gramineae, Rosaceae, and Umbelliferae. The largest genus is *Carex*, with 15 species; and 28 families are represented by a single genus, 23 of these genera being represented by a single species. The list includes the description of 5 new species.—J. M. C.

Phytogeographic notes from Palestine.—AARONSOHN⁴⁹ has called attention to some species that are disappearing from the flora of Palestine. He describes a little known station of *Acacia albida*, a species of northern Africa heretofore regarded as merely cultivated in Palestine. AARONSOHN regards it as an indigenous relict. Among other rare relicts in Palestine are *Pinus halepensis*, *Juniperus phoenicea*, and *Fraxinus oxycarpa oligophylla*. The author believes that these species, on account of the great need for wood in the arid Palestine climate, have been essentially exterminated by man. An interesting argument in support of this view, recalling the methods employed by the English ecologists in working out the original distribution of the beech, is based on the occurrence of place-names derived from these trees in neighborhoods where these species are no longer to be found.—H. C. COWLES.

U.S. Forest Service.—Among various articles of more or less general interest in a recent periodical, JAENICKE⁵⁰ gives a brief and interesting résumé of the varied activities of the Forest Service. This organization, employing the services of 2,895 persons, many of them with botanical training, and expending annually some \$6,000,000, devotes its attention to subjects ranging from purely botanical research through reforestation and forest protection to the sale of timber and the development of water power. With increasing interest in forest protection, there is coming an increasing demand for increasing

⁴⁸ TAKEDA, H., The flora of the island of Shikotan. Jour. Linn. Soc. Bot. 42: 433-510. 1914.

⁴⁹ AARONSOHN, A., Notules de phytogéographie palestinienne. (I). Une station peu connue de l'*Acacia albida* Del. (II). Espèces en voie d'extinction. Bull. Soc. Bot. France 60:495-503, 585-592. pl. 1. 1913.

⁵⁰ JAENICKE, A. J., Progress of the U.S. Forest Service as reflected in the forester's reports of 1911, 1912, 1913. Forestry Quarterly 12:397-407. 1914.